

Appl. No.: 09/445,065
Amdt. dated 03/01/2005
Reply to Office action of December 13, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Bandage for the shoulder and upper arm area, comprising an anatomically shaped upper arm part which is configured to receive the upper arm of a patient, and an anatomically shaped forearm part which is configured to receive the forearm of said patient,

the upper arm part being designed in the shape of a half shell and having a recess configured to fit over and enclose the shoulder joint of said patient in said half shell, and

the forearm part being designed in the shape of a half shell and having an enclosure for the elbow joint, and

the upper arm part and the forearm part being connected to one another by a connecting strap in an adjustable and substantially flexible manner, and a support strap being arranged on the upper arm part and a holding strap being arranged on the forearm part, said holding strap being configured to pass behind the back of a patient to the upper arm part and form a loop around the upper arm part and the upper arm of the patient, one end of said holding strap being fixed to the forearm part and the second end of said holding strap being secured to the upper arm part, thereby holding the forearm part against the body of said patient.

2. (Previously Presented) Bandage according to Claim 1, wherein the upper arm part and the forearm part are surrounded by an encapsulating material.

3. (Previously Presented) Bandage according to Claim 1, wherein the edges of the upper arm part, forearm or both are thin or conically shaped.

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4. (Previously Presented) Bandage according to Claim 1, wherein, in addition to the recess adapted to fit over and enclose the shoulder, the upper arm part comprises profiled recesses which exert a partial strengthening action.

5. (Previously Presented) Bandage according to Claim 1, wherein profiled recesses can be worked into the forearm part and exert a partial strengthening action.

6. (Previously Presented) Bandage according to Claim 1, wherein the forearm part has a hand guide or hand-securing means.

7. (Previously Presented) Bandage according to Claim 1, wherein the upper arm part is fixed ventrally to the forearm part in the area of the wrist by means of said support strap and said support strap runs from the shoulder to the neck area.

8. (Previously Presented) Bandage according to Claim 1, wherein the support strap comprises a partial padding in the area of transition from the cervical spine to the shoulder girdle.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) Bandage according to Claim 1 wherein the holding strap runs from the forearm part, starting from the hand region, dorsally in the lumbar area to the distal upper arm and laterally encloses the latter from posterior to anterior.

11. (Previously Presented) Bandage according to Claim 1, wherein the straps are made of a laminated foam or a laminated nonwoven fabric.

12. (Previously Presented) Bandage according to Claim 1, wherein the straps have a high padding effect and, with loading of about 50 N, have a longitudinal expansion of $<35\%$.

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13. (Previously Presented) Method of producing a bandage according to Claim 1 wherein the upper arm part and the forearm part are made of a starting material which contains at least a proportion of thermoplastic fibres or components, and are thermoformed to the shape of the body part on which they are to be used.

14. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 13, wherein said starting material is a thermoformable nonwoven fabric, woven fabric, knitted fabric, foil, foam, thermoformable plastic with low rigidity or a combination thereof.

15. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 13, wherein the starting material comprises a two-layer or multi-layer laminate, of which at least one layer is thermoformable.

16. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 13, wherein the starting material is heated to thermoformability and is then shaped using a positive mould, negative mould or both.

17. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 13, wherein the starting material is heated to its thermoformability point and is shaped between a positive mould and a negative mould.

18. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 13, wherein the starting material is heated to its thermoformability point and formed in heated moulds.

19. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 13, wherein the starting material has been thermoformed to individual body sizes.

20. (Previously Presented) Bandage according to Claim 12, wherein said longitudinal expansion is <10%.

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21. (Canceled)